



Congressman Mike Simpson

E-Newsletter

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Congress Invests Heavily in Math and Science Education

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Mike Simpson demonstrated his strong support for education, teachers and Idaho Schools when he joined colleagues in passing two important pieces of education legislation. H.R. 362, 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds, Science and Math Scholarship Act and H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act, both demonstrate the importance of math and science education as well as Congress' commitment to America's future in these areas.

"It's easy for most of the world to know what they will be doing in ten to twenty years; it is what America is doing right now," said Simpson. "Our future is unknown and in order to maintain our innovative edge, we must give teachers and students the resources they need to excel in math and science."



Congressman Simpson with Idaho 4-H Students visiting Washington, D.C.

H.R. 362, 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds, Science and Math Scholarship Act authorizes programs to improve U.S. math, science, and engineering education at all levels. These programs will develop and provide teacher training, attract math and science majors to teaching, and

improve undergraduate math, science and engineering courses.

"Council on Competitiveness, National Academy of Sciences, Micron Technology and other high-tech companies agree that we need to emphasize the importance of strengthening science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in the U.S. to ensure that the nation's workforce can compete globally," said Simpson. "The passage of these bills will help us reach this goal."

H.R. 363, Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act, requires the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to carry out a program of awarding grants to scientists and engineers at the early stage of their careers. Students must be attending institutions of higher education in the United States or at certain research organizations to conduct research in fields relevant to the mission of the NSF.

The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program will be designated as the mechanism for awarding the grants.

The Department of Energy (DOE) will carry out a similar program and the Director will be required to transmit a report on efforts to recruit and retain young scientists and engineers at DOE laboratories.

The bill also directs the President to periodically present the Presidential Innovation Award to individuals who develop one or more unique scientific or engineering ideas in the national interest.

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Taxes: We Need a System that is Simple and Fair

As taxpayers across America filed and paid their income taxes this month, Congressman Mike Simpson cited an alternative to the complicated formulas and obscure rules that cause confusion, fear and procrastination.

Simpson is cosponsoring legislation that would force Congress to quit talking the issue to death and get on with the job of making the Internal Revenue Code simple, transparent and fair.

The Tax Code Terminations Act terminates the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 after December 31, 2010, except for self-employment taxes, Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes, and Railroad Retirement taxes. The bill, H.R. 510, was introduced in January and already has 81 cosponsors.

"The IRS plays a much too prominent role in the everyday lives of America's taxpayers," Simpson said. "This legislation would help end that unwelcome intrusion and put a stop to a tax system that leaves too many working families confused, angry, and over-taxed," Simpson said.

H.R. 510 declares that any new federal tax system should be a simple and fair system that:

- (1) applies a low rate to all Americans;
- (2) provides tax relief for working Americans;
- (3) protects the rights of taxpayers and reduces tax collection abuses;
- (4) eliminates the bias against savings and investment;
- (5) promotes economic growth and job creation; and
- (6) does not penalize marriage or families.

It also would require that the new federal tax system be approved by Congress in its final form by July 4, 2010.

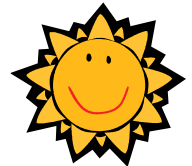
Congressman Simpson is also supportive of H.R. 411, the Tax Relief for Families Act that makes the 'Bush Tax Cuts' permanent. They include:

- Child Tax Credit
- Marriage Penalty Relief
- College Tuition Deduction
- State and Local Sales Tax Deduction
- School Teacher Expense Deduction
- Repeal of the Estate Tax



Sumer Safety Tips from the Missing and Exploited Children Organization www.missingkids.com

1. Always CHECK FIRST with your parents, guardians, or the trusted adult in charge before you go anywhere or do anything.
2. Always TAKE A FRIEND with you when playing or going anywhere.
3. Never accept anything from anyone without your parents' or guardians' permission.
4. Keep the door locked; and DO NOT open it for strangers.
5. Never go into a public restroom by yourself.
6. Never go alone to malls, movies, video arcades, or parks..
7. Don't panic if you feel lost. Identify the safest place to go or person to ask for help in reuniting you with your parents or guardians.
8. Be careful when you play. Stay away from pools, canals, and other bodies of water unless you are with a trusted adult.
9. Don't wear clothes or carry items with your name on the outside.
10. Don't get into a vehicle or go near a vehicle with anyone in it unless you are with a trusted adult.
11. Be careful playing or riding your bicycle as it gets dark.
12. Don't be afraid to say NO and GET AWAY from any situation making you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. TRUST YOUR FEELINGS, and be sure to TELL a trusted adult if anything happens to make you feel this way.



Simpson Supports Small Business Loan Programs

Congressman Mike Simpson voted in favor of H.R. 1332, the Small Business Lending Improvement Act. The bill allows the Small Business Administration to continue the 7(a) loan program without the use of appropriations.

"Small Businesses employ half of all private sector employees, and pay more than 45 percent of the United States payroll, in a sense they are the backbone of our economy," said Simpson. "I believe we must make it easier for people to obtain loans to start a new business and that is what the 7(a) loan program does."

H.R. 1332 also reestablishes the SBA-Low-DOC loan program, but limits that to rural areas. There is a provision that requires the SBA to work with low-volume rural lenders to increase their utilization of this loan program. This will focus economic development to areas that need it most.

Medical care providers who serve low income areas will also benefit from 7(a) loans with a 90% guarantee.

"I'm pleased this bill welcomes Armed Servicemen and Women who are leaving the military to take advantage of the 7(a) loan program," said Simpson. "Recent Veterans will receive a 90% guarantee rate without regard to loan size and lender fees will be eliminated."

This bill also would make some changes in Title II in order to improve the Certified Development Company Loan Program and enable Certified Development Companies (CDC) greater opportunities to provide economic development activities to small businesses.

One of the most important fiscal responsibility tools in H.R. 1332 is the requirement that CDC's liquidate their own loans. This improves the return that the government receives on foreclosed properties.

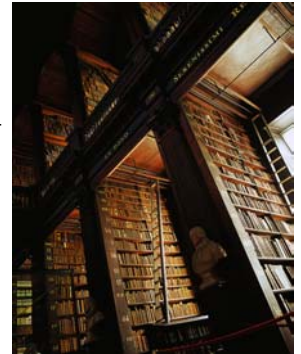
For more information about the 7(a) loan program or other small business questions visit the Small Business Administration's website at www.sba.gov.

Simpson Announces Openings for Academy Applicants

Congressman Mike Simpson announced that his office is not accepting Service Academy Applications. The applications for the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy are due on October 31, 2007.

"Academy nominations give Idaho's finest students the opportunity to serve their country, receive an elite college education and get a jump-start on a good career," said Simpson. "Idaho consistently ranks among the top states in the quality of its nominations and we'll be looking to continue that record."

To register for an application please visit Congressman Simpson's website at www.house.gov/simpson and look under the 'Services for You' tab, or the direct link is: <http://www.house.gov/simpson/students-academies.shtml>. You may also call Linda Culver at (208) 734-7219.



Weekly Website

Visit:

<http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/drown.htm>

to learn more about water safety.

USDA To Provide Assistance To Eradicate Potato Cyst Nematode in Idaho

The Idaho Congressional Delegation welcomed today's announcement by Secretary of Agriculture Johanns that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be providing \$10.78 million to help eradicate potato cyst nematode (PCN) in Idaho.

A year ago, PCN was discovered in tare soil originating from some eastern Idaho fields. Tare soil is the dirt that is attached to the potato when it comes out of the ground. Since then, an extensive survey determined that PCN is confined to just seven fields within a one-mile radius. Since PCN can cause up to eighty percent crop loss, eradication is essential.

The Delegation thanked Secretary Johanns for granting their request for this assistance, "This is major news for Idaho's potato industry and the producers whose farm operations were directly affected. We commend the excellent work of Secretary Johanns and the Bush Administration in recognizing the urgency and severity of this problem and acting quickly to resolve it. This will help preserve Idaho's potato industry."



House Authorizes Water Transportation Projects

Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson voted in favor of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). H.R. 1495 would streamline the delivery of water transportation projects and permits, increase recreational opportunities in Idaho, and make important repairs to agricultural and flood control infrastructure in Idaho.

Navigation improvement is particularly important in Idaho where the Snake River feeds the lower Columbia River international gateway. Annually, about ten million tons of grain, paper products, petroleum products, and general container cargo produced by Idahoans are transported through this waterway; amounting to almost \$2 billion in goods each year.

"Barging products is not only the cheapest way to get goods and services from Idaho to the world marketplace, but it also keeps trucks off of our already overloaded highways and improves transportation safety in our state," said Simpson.

H.R. 1495 includes provisions which allow flood damage reduction, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and environmental restoration. Most importantly, it authorizes the Corps to increase the use of waterways as an important method of transportation for America's farmers and producers.

H.R. 1495 authorizes the following Idaho Projects:

- Boise River General Investigation Study
- Dworshak Reservoir Improvements (\$5.3 million)
- Port of Lewiston Development
- Riley Creek RAMP/Albeni Falls Dam (\$600,000)
- Fish Creek Dam (\$6 million)

"Our water quality has improved dramatically as a result of cooperative efforts between federal, state and local governments," said Simpson. "It is important that we work to increase and maintain a balance between our nation's need to use, consume, and develop water with the needs of the environment."

